

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (ONCE AMENDED) Recombinant screening, cloning and/or expression vector that replicates in mycobacteria and that contains:
- 1) a replicon, which is functional in mycobacteria;
 - 2) a selectable marker;
 - 3) a reporter cassette comprising:
 - a) a multiple cloning site (polylinker),
 - b) optionally a transcription terminator, which is active in mycobacteria, upstream of the polylinker,
 - c) a coding nucleotide sequence, which is derived from a gene encoding a protein expression, export and/or secretion marker, said nucleotide sequence lacking its initiation codon and its regulatory sequences, and
 - d) a coding nucleotide sequence derived from a gene encoding a marker for the activity of promoters, which are contained in the same fragment, said nucleotide sequence having its initiation codon.

REMARKS REGARDING AMENDMENT

Applicants submit this Amendment along with a Response to the Restriction and Election of Species Requirements set forth in the Office Action dated March 26, 2003.

With this Amendment, the specification and claim 1 are amended.

The amendment is made to correct an error in the original translation. In the original English translation of the French language application, the French wording,